

is 9"; the outer side of the same, parallel with the diameter of the shaft, 6", and the outer curve of the same process 10". Breadth of the olecranon at middle 4"; the same tangentially at the neck and its circumference 15".

The five carpal bones have a very considerable thickness in relation to their breadths, and each has five articulating facets. The comparative superficies of three of these taken separately are, of one of them in length and breadth  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " by 3", thickness  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "; of a second 3" by 3" in diameter, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " thick; of the third 3 by 2", and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. The metacarpal bones and phalanges are so imperfect and badly mounted that no dependence can be placed either on their number or position.

The hyoid bone presents no marked divergence from the shape usual in *Physalus*. The body is compressed and with an anterior convexity. The anterior cornua are W-shaped, and with a moderate-sized notch, which is more pointed and narrower than in *Sibbaldius*. The thyrohyals are large, and thrown backwards from the body as much as 8 inches at their tips; they are thickest at their middle, and abruptly truncated at their extremities: these also differ from those of *Sibbaldius* both in general thickness and in the direction in which they are produced from the body of the bone. The measurements of the hyoid are the following:—Greatest width in a straight line 34", and following the outer curve 39"; greatest length from before backwards  $10\frac{3}{4}$ ". Length of body to fork of cleft  $7\frac{1}{2}$ "; breadth of the body 6". Small or anterior cornua, in length  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ". Greater cornua (thyrohyals), breadth tangentially at the roots 6"; circumference at same 13", and at their tips 9". The whole bone is light in comparison with its size.

The pelvic bones are wanting.

---

February 28, 1865.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

Mr. Fraser exhibited two eggs of the Rose-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua rosacea*, Lath.), which had been laid a few days since by a bird in captivity, being, as he believed, the first record of the kind. Mr. Fraser remarked that the bird was very tame, and a good talker (thus answering the oft-repeated inquiry whether hen Parrots talk), and that his friend, William Goodwin, Esq., also had a very good talking Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Gmel.), which had laid two eggs in 1839.

A letter was read from Dr. John Kirk, Corresponding Member, containing the following reply to the observations of Dr. W. Peters, Foreign Member, in the 'Society's Proceedings,' 1864, p. 377, relating to *Gerrhosaurus robustus*:—

“ From a letter of Dr. W. Peters in the ‘ Proceedings of the Zool. Soc.’ 1864, p. 377, I find that a casual word of mine has given that gentleman some annoyance which on my part was not intended.

“ On handing over the Reptiles collected by me in Eastern Tropical Africa to the British Museum, Dr. Gray remarked that one of them, *Gerrhosaurus robustus*, was, according to Dr. Peters, named ‘ *Caaiia* ’ by the natives of Tete.

“ I had not then seen Dr. Peters’s paper ‘ On the Reptiles of Mosambique,’ and I remarked that this word meant in the native language ‘ I don’t know.’ To this I attached no importance, nor was it meant for publication; still less was I aware that the word ‘ *Caaiia* ’ had been a misprint.

“ Dr. Livingstone writes me thus:—‘ Mr. Moffat has been collecting words in the Sechuana language for the last forty-three years, and finds new ones every week. In eight years I had upwards of seven thousand, and rejected many hundreds either as uncouth or to me quite useless. I think there were eleven names for a lion, and no end of words meaning different shades of fools’!

“ Dr. Peters has referred me to a vocabulary of the Mozambique languages, published by Dr. Wm. H. J. Black, from manuscripts of his and from other materials, now including minerals. Only about 900 words are given here, whereas, judging from what Dr. Livingstone says of the Sechuana, this dialect must contain an equal number of terms; and no one could, in my opinion, in nine months collect even the common expressions. Let me assure Dr. Peters that there is no necessity for supposing that the language has changed since 1845, because one word is omitted from his vocabulary.

“ The word ‘ *penu*,’ which Dr. Peters gives as signifying ‘ I don’t know,’ does so only inferentially, and means literally ‘ perhaps,’ ‘ it may be,’ ‘ possibly.’ There are other expressions more definite, and in common use.

“ In regard to the last part of Dr. Peters’s letter, I will remark that the majority of Tette fowls live in the huts of the people, and not on perches. And I may remind him of the wide-spread idea in Africa that the bite of the Chameleon (*Chamæleon dilepis*) is venomous to man, although it possesses no means of inflicting more than a slight squeeze with its weak jaws. He will therefore possibly concede that the same people may believe that the *Gerrhosaurus* kills fowls.”

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PORPOISE IN THE MUSEUM OF BUENOS AYRES. BY DR. H. BURMEISTER, F.M.Z.S.

*PHOCÆNA SPINIPINNIS*, sp. nov.

The animal has the general figure of the common European species, but differs entirely in the position of the dorsal fin, which is placed further backwards, and has spines on the upper edge.

The whole body is black, without any other colour, and the sur-